

WASHINGTON - Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) released the following statement regarding decisions made by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission at a hearing today:

"Today's actions are continued good news for Maryland and are the result of 10 years of hard work by Maryland's elected officials and our defense community since the last round of base closings.

"Fort Monmouth's move to Aberdeen Proving Grounds will bring jobs and economic growth to our state. And this move will provide great synergy for the Department of Defense in the war on terror.

"Representative Ruppersberger worked tirelessly with our two Senators to advance Maryland's interests during the BRAC process, and this work will continue as we successfully implement today's decision regarding Aberdeen and Fort Monmouth.

"The Commission included language that prevents on-going program efforts at Fort Monmouth from moving if it will cause disruption to war fighters in the field. This is an appropriate requirement. However, Maryland will meet this challenge and partner with the Defense Department to implement this move efficiently and effectively. As we proved at Patuxent River Naval Air Station in prior base closing rounds, a swift move can be accomplished when all levels of government work in partnership with the private sector.

"I am confident that the Commission's actions through the rest of the week will hold more good news for our state, including Pax River and Indian Head in Southern Maryland, which I represent. This process reinforces once again that Maryland is a top defense state for our nation."

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